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1911

University of Illinois
Library School.

Friends' Reference Library.

Established 1673.

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE, 136, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.

(Belonging to London Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends.)

Committee:

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Assistant Librarians:

M. ETHEL CRAWSHAW. ELSIE M. SMITH.

The Library contains about 45,000 items in print and manuscript, relating to the Society of Friends. Original family letters and papers are numerous; the latter half of the seventeenth century is very fully represented, the Swarthmore series alone containing about 1,400 manuscripts.

There is no printed catalogue of the contents of the Library, but with some few exceptions everything noted in Joseph Smith's printed *Catalogue of Friends' Books* is to be found in the Library. Modern books relating to Friends are added as published. Many books may be borrowed by Friends.

The Library is open for purposes of enquiry and research from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Saturdays to 1 p.m.)

Report for the Year 1911.

This Committee has met nine times during the past year, and has given careful consideration to a variety of subjects, which have either been delegated to it by the Meeting for Sufferings, or have arisen in the meetings of the Committee. Careful thought has been given to the best means of providing enquirers with information in French and German regarding Friends' views of truth. It is expected that this long-felt want will shortly be supplied in part at least.

Recent Literature.—The past year has been remarkable for the amount and value of contributions to Quaker literature which have appeared. In much of this the Library department has been able to assist by placing the store of information under its care at the disposal of authors, and by rendering assistance in research work. Acknowledgments of help received from the Library staff, and from the publications emanating from the Department, have appeared in:—

- “The Quakers in the American Colonies,” by Rufus M. Jones,
- “History of Wiveliscombe,” by Prebendary Hancock,
- “The Ejected of 1662 in Cumberland and Westmorland,” by Benjamin Nightingale, two vols.,
- “The Beginnings of Quakerism,” by William C. Braithwaite,
- “Records of the Gibbins Family,” by Emma Gibbins,
- “The William Penn Memorial,” by Barr Ferree; etc.

After four years of preparation the new Journal of George Fox was published early in Eleventh Month, and the circulation has so far exceeded the expectation of the publishers, the Cambridge University Press. The work has been favourably reviewed. A five column notice in “The Athenæum” closes with the words, “We find it impossible to indicate a title of what there is of interest, both for history and character, now for the first time brought to light. High praise is due to the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press not only for their enterprise in producing this authoritative edition, but also for the beautiful setting and form of the work. As to Mr. Penney's labours, we can truthfully say that outside classical scholarship we have hardly met such learned and faultless editing.”

Another volume, the eighth, of “The Journal of the Friends' Historical Society” has been completed, and also another Supplement to the same of “Extracts from State Papers, 1658-1664.”

At the request and the expense of the Biddle Press of Philadelphia a new edition of "Experiences in the Life of Mary Penington (written by herself)" has been prepared in the Library, and provided with Introduction, Notes, Bibliography, Genealogical Chart, Illustrations, etc.

Presentations.—Many Friends and others interested in the Library have borne it in mind when disposing of books and papers. Emma Gibbins, of Edgbaston, has presented several volumes of the Diary of Susanna Boone, of Shipston (died 1789), and also a copy of her beautiful record of the Gibbins family; Elizabeth B. Rutter has given an interesting collection of autographs of Friends attending a conference at Wellington, New Zealand, in 1909; Robert H. Marsh has supplied the Library with Bartholomew's Gazetteer of the British Isles, 1904, and Atlas of England and Wales, 1903, both frequently consulted, also with a copy of the very rare Friends' Almanack for 1789; a volume of Manuscript entitled "The Sufferings of the People of God called by the name of Quakers within the three severall meetings of Swarthmore, Cartmel and Hawkeshead, 1660-1735," has been presented by Alfred E. Binyon; several books and pamphlets of ancient dates have been sent by Edward Stabler, Junr., and Ella Kent Barnard, of Baltimore, Md. Numerous modern publications, including William C. Braithwaite's "Beginnings of Quakerism," have been presented.

We commend the practice which is becoming frequent of sending up parcels of odd pamphlets and papers for the Librarian to inspect, with permission to retain or destroy as thought best. One such case provided the Library with a valuable set of papers, and the Library has also benefited through the receipt from Pennsylvania of a rare pamphlet printed in North Carolina, which was sent in a bundle of tracts to the Librarian of Haverford College described as "almost worthless."

Aids to Research.—During the year much has been accomplished in the production of indexes and other ready guides to information on Friends and Friendly topics. The following indexes prepared in this department may now be consulted in the Library—to the new "Journal of George Fox," 11,120 references; "Journal of the Historical Society," 1911, 2,070; Supplement to the same, No. 9, 1,600; "Bowden's History of Friends in America," 3,600, prepared by Evelyn Roberts, of Winchmore Hill, who has kindly given many



hours' work at Devonshire House to this and other literary services for the Society ; "Life and Writings of John Whitehead," 414 ; "Life of Richard Davies," 640.

The printed index to the volumes of the "Friends' Quarterly Examiner," 1867 to 1900, has been continued to cover the subsequent years to 1910.

The information accessible by means of the Card Catalogue has also been greatly increased.

Exhibitions.—Efforts continue to be made to draw the attention of Friends, and of interested persons outside the Society, to the Quaker records preserved at Devonshire House. As in other years, numerous Friends took the opportunity of attendance at Yearly Meeting to view many relics of the past of the Society.

On the 13th of Seventh Month last, in connection with the unveiling of a memorial to the memory of William Penn, in the London church of All Hallows Barking-by-the-Tower, arranged by the Pennsylvania Society of New York, a display of books and documents connected with the Founder of Pennsylvania was made, and the Library was crowded with visitors. Twenty-three direct descendants of Penn, including the Earl of Ranfurly, and members of the Knox, Alexander, Penn-Gaskell, Penn-Bowen, and Grant families, were present, and also the Lord Mayor of London (Sir T. Vesey Strong) and the Lady Mayoress. About ninety names were entered in the Visitors' Book on this day.

Numerous private visits have also been paid to the Library, and small parties, including scholars in Friends' schools accompanied by teachers, have been shewn round and have had different objects explained to them by the Librarian or his assistants.

In addition to the Penn party, rather more than 100 names have been entered in the Visitors' Book during 1911.

Loans from the Library.—It cannot be too frequently stated, as it only slowly becomes known, that many of the books and tracts in the Library can be lent, under certain conditions, to members of the Society. The number of such Loans amounted to 213 during 1911, an increase upon previous years.

ANNA L. LITTLEBOY, Clerk.

Second Month, 1912.